State of Arizona Senate Forty-fourth Legislature Second Regular Session 2000

SENATE BILL 1249

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 32-4002 THROUGH 32-4008, 32-4021, 32-4022, 32-4023, 32-4024 AND 32-4041, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING LAWS 1999, CHAPTER 335, SECTION 3; RELATING TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section 1. Section 32-4002, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

32-4002. Definitions

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1. "Board" means the board of certified court reporters.
- 2. "CERTIFICATION" MEANS A STANDARD CERTIFICATE THAT IS ISSUED BY THE BOARD TO A PERSON WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTIONS 32-4021 AND 32-4022 AND DOES NOT INCLUDE A TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE.
- 2. 3. "Certified court reporter" means a person who is certified by the board and who records and transcribes a verbatim record in any sworn proceeding by means of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or machine writing.
- 3. 4. "Certify" means board authorization to engage in activities regulated by the board.
- 4. 5. "Report" means to stenographically record and transcribe sworn proceedings.
 - Sec. 2. Section 32-4003, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 32-4003. Court reporter certification; violation
- A. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2000, a person shall not engage in the stenographic reporting of proceedings in any court in this state and shall not take stenographic depositions in this state for use in any court in this state unless the person is certified pursuant to this chapter.
- B. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2000, a certified court reporter shall sign and certify each transcript that the certified court reporter prepares before the transcript may be used in court, EXCEPT FOR TRANSCRIPTS THAT THE COURT REPORTER PREPARES FOR PROCEEDINGS THAT OCCURRED BEFORE JULY 1, 2000.
- C. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2000, a certified court reporter shall include the title "certified court reporter" and the reporter's certificate number on the title or cover page of any transcript, on any business card, advertisement or letterhead and on the certificate of any transcript.
- D. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2000, it is unlawful for any person who is not certified pursuant to this chapter to represent oneself as a certified court reporter or to engage in the activities or perform the duties of a court reporter as defined in section 32-4002.
 - Sec. 3. Section 32-4004, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 32-4004. Board of certified court reporters
- A. The board of certified court reporters is established consisting of the following members:
- 1. The chief justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee.
- 2. One judge of the court of appeals who is appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.
- 3. One superior court judge who is appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.

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- 4. Two court reporters who are residents of this state, who have been official court reporters for at least five years and who are appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.
- 5. Two court reporters who are residents of this state, who have been freelance court reporters for at least five years and who are appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.
- 6. One attorney who is a resident of this state, who has been licensed to practice law in this state for at least five years and who is appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.
- 7. One public member who has been a resident of this state for at least five years and who is appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.
- B. Members WHO ARE appointed pursuant to subsection A, paragraphs 2 through 7 serve five year terms. The chief justice shall fill a vacancy for any unexpired portion of a term in the same manner as the original appointment.
 - C. A majority of the members shall elect a chairperson.
- D. Public members of the board are not eligible to receive compensation but are eligible to receive reimbursement for expenses pursuant to title 38, chapter 4, article 2.
- E. The board shall keep ASSURE THAT a record of its meetings and all official actions and shall maintain, a register of all applicants for certification and a roster of all certified court reporters IS MAINTAINED. The board shall designate the location where it maintains the register and roster.
 - Sec. 4. Section 32-4005, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 32-4005. Program administration; duties
 - A. THE SUPREME COURT SHALL:
 - 1. ADMINISTER THE COURT REPORTER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.
 - 2. ADOPT RULES.
- 3. ESTABLISH AND COLLECT FEES, COSTS AND FINES THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROGRAM.
 - B. The board shall:
- ${\small 1.} \quad {\small \textbf{Recommend and the supreme court shall adopt rules to implement and enforce this chapter.} \\$
- 1. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT REGARDING RULES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THIS CHAPTER, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:
 - (a) APPLICANT TESTING.
 - (b) FEES.
 - (c) A CODE OF CONDUCT.
 - (d) CONTINUING EDUCATION.
- (e) ANY OTHER MATTER PERTAINING TO CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS.

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- 2. Determine through testing and other means an applicant's ability to make a verbatim record of proceedings that may be used in any court by means of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or machine writing.
 - 3. Issue certificates to qualified applicants.
- 4. Make recommendations to the supreme court concerning matters pertaining to certified court reporters.
- 5. Recommend and the supreme court shall set fees pursuant to section 32-4008.
 - 6. Require continuing education.
- 7. On its own motion or on receipt of a complaint, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate alleged violations of this chapter, as appropriate.
- 8. Impose cease and desist orders, issue letters of concern or warnings or order revocation or suspension of certification for violations of this chapter and assess costs associated with these activities. These costs shall be deposited in the board of certified court reporters fund established by section 32-4007.
 - 9. Adopt a code of conduct for court reporters.
- 4. INVESTIGATE AND TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 32-4006.
- 10. 5. Require each applicant to submit a full set of fingerprints to the board SUPREME COURT for the purpose of obtaining a state and federal criminal records check pursuant to section 41-1750 and Public Law 92-544. The department of public safety may exchange this fingerprint data with the federal bureau of investigation.
 - Sec. 5. Section 32-4006, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 32-4006. Investigations and hearings; procedures
- A. ON ITS OWN MOTION OR ON RECEIPT OF A COMPLAINT, the board may SHALL investigate, PROSECUTE AND ADJUDICATE alleged violations of this chapter, AS APPROPRIATE, and may conduct any investigation that would aid in the enforcement of this chapter.
- B. For the purposes of investigations or hearings under this chapter, the board may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, take evidence and require the production of documents, records or information, either kept in original form or electronically stored or recorded, or other items that are relevant or material to the inquiry.
- C. If a person refuses to obey a subpoena issued pursuant to this section, the board may request the superior court to issue an order that requires the appearance by a person or the production of documents or other items, or both. The court may treat the failure to obey the order as contempt of court and may punish the contempt.
- D. THE BOARD SHALL IMPOSE CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS, ISSUE LETTERS OF CONCERN OR WARNINGS OR ORDER REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATION FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ARTICLE AND ASSESS COSTS AND FINES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE ACTIVITIES. THESE COSTS AND FINES SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE COURT REPORTERS FUND ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 32-4007.

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Sec. 6. Section 32-4007, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 32-4007. Court reporters fund; report

- A. The board of certified court reporters fund is established consisting of costs deposited pursuant to section 32-4005, fees, COSTS AND FINES collected pursuant to section SECTIONS 32-4005, 32-4006 AND 32-4008 and monies appropriated to the fund. The supreme court shall administer the fund.
- B. Monies deposited in the board of certified court reporters fund are continuously appropriated and are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations.
- C. The supreme court may receive and expend monies from the fund for the purposes of this chapter.
- D. The state treasurer shall invest monies in the fund. Interest earned on fund monies shall be deposited in the fund.
 - Sec. 7. Section 32-4008, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 32-4008. Fees

The board shall recommend and The supreme court shall set AND COLLECT the following fees to carry out this chapter:

- 1. Examination fees.
- 2. Certificate application fees.
- 3. Certificate renewal fees.
- 4. Temporary certificate application fees.
- 5. Temporary certificate renewal fees.
- 6. ANY OTHER FEES THAT ARE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO CARRY OUT THIS CHAPTER.
 - Sec. 8. Section 32-4021, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 32-4021. Standard certification qualifications; application
- A. An applicant for STANDARD certification as a certified court reporter shall apply on APPROVED forms that are approved by and obtained from the board and, at a minimum, shall:
 - 1. Be at least eighteen years of age.
 - 2. Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States.
 - 3. Satisfy the examination requirements of section 32-4022.
 - 4. Be of good moral character.
- 5. Possess a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma or a similar document or certificate.
- 6. PURSUANT TO RULES ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT demonstrate reasonable proficiency in making verbatim records of trial or judicial or related proceedings through the applicant's ability to pass a board approved examination for certification.
- 7. Comply with the laws and court rules AND ORDERS ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT governing court reporters in this state.
 - 8. Pay the fees established by the board pursuant to section 32-4008.
- 9. SUBMIT A FULL SET OF FINGERPRINTS WITH THE FEE PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 41-1750 TO THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING A STATE AND

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FEDERAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-1750 AND PUBLIC LAW 92-544.

- B. IF THE BOARD IS SATISFIED THAT AN APPLICANT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND SECTION 32-4022, THE SUPREME COURT SHALL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE TO THE APPLICANT. THE BOARD MAY REFUSE TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE IF SECTION 32-4024 APPLIES.
 - Sec. 9. Section 32-4022, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read: 32-4022. Examination; requirements; exemption
- A. A person shall not be admitted to an examination without presenting satisfactory evidence to the board that before the date on which the application for an examination was filed the person has obtained DONE at least one of the following:
- 1. OBTAINED one year of experience in making verbatim records of meetings, conferences, hearings or judicial or related proceedings by means of written symbols or abbreviations in shorthand or machine writing and in transcribing these records.
- 2. OBTAINED a verified certificate of the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study from a court reporting school or a certificate from a school that evidences the equivalent proficiency and the ability to make a verbatim record of material that is dictated pursuant to rules adopted by the board SUPREME COURT.
- 3. OBTAINED a national court reporters association's registered professional reporter or registered merit reporter certificate.
- 4. OBTAINED a valid certificate to practice court reporting that is issued by a state other than this state if the other state's requirements and certifying examination are substantially similar to or more stringent than those in this state.
- 5. DEMONSTRATED REASONABLE PROFICIENCY IN MAKING VERBATIM RECORDS OF TRIAL OR JUDICIAL OR OTHER RELATED PROCEEDINGS BY PASSING AN APPROVED EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULES ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT.
- B. The examination for certification consists of the following two parts:
- 1. A national court reporters association's registered professional reporter examination or an alternative examination DEMONSTRATION OF PROFICIENCY approved by the supreme court.
- 2. A written knowledge test of rules of the supreme court of Arizona and statutes of this state relating to court reporters.
- C. The board shall continually review the content and subject matter of the examination and shall make changes as deemed necessary.
- D. The board shall hold examinations at least semiannually and shall set the time THE SUPREME COURT SHALL SPECIFY A DATE and place for the examinations.
- E. The board shall issue a certificate to an applicant who passes the examination and meets the other requirements for certification. An applicant who has passed a national court reporters association's registered

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professional reporter examination or a national court reporters association's registered merit reporter examination and the test prescribed by subsection B, paragraph 2 may apply for certification without taking and passing the examination prescribed by subsection B, paragraph 1, and the board may issue the applicant a certificate if the applicant submits all of the following to the board:

- 1. Proof that the applicant holds a current national court reporters association's registered professional reporter or registered merit reporter designation.
- 2. A copy of the applicant's national court reporters association's registered professional reporter or registered merit reporter certificate.
 - 3. Proof of payment of all dues and fees required by the board.
- F. An applicant who fails to pass the examination prescribed by subsection B, paragraph 2 may apply for reexamination at any time.
- G. An applicant shall be disqualified from taking any future examination if the board determines that the applicant engaged in fraud, dishonesty or corruption while taking the examination.
- Sec. 10. Section 32-4023, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

32-4023. Certificate renewal

- A. A certificate issued pursuant to this article is subject to renewal each year and expires unless renewed by December 31.
- B. The certificate holder is responsible for applying for a renewal certificate. On receipt of the renewal application and the renewal fee, the board shall issue the applicant a new certificate for one year, except that the board shall deny the issuance of a renewal certificate if UNLESS the board finds that the applicant has violated this chapter DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL OR THAT SECTION 32-4024 APPLIES.
- C. A certificate holder shall inform the $\frac{\text{board}}{\text{board}}$ SUPREME COURT of any name or address change within thirty days after the change occurs.
- D. A certificate holder shall include with the application for renewal documentation satisfactory to the board that the certificate holder has successfully completed at least ten hours of $\frac{board}{board}$ approved continuing education each year.
- Sec. 11. Section 32-4024, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

32-4024. Certificate denial

- A. The board may refuse to issue a certificate or to renew a certificate if the board finds that any of the following applies:
- 1. THE APPLICANT DOES NOT MEET TO THE BOARD'S SATISFACTION THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SECTIONS 32-4021 AND 32-4022.
- 2. THE APPLICANT HAS NOT BEEN FINGERPRINTED AND THE SUPREME COURT HAS NOT RECEIVED AND REVIEWED THE CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK ANALYSIS.
 - 3. THE APPLICANT HAS NOT SUBMITTED THE APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS AND FEES.

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1. 4. The applicant committed fraud, DISHONESTY, CORRUPTION or MATERIAL misrepresentation in applying for a certificate OR ON A CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION in this state or another state.
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- 2. 5. The applicant was convicted HAS A RECORD OF CONVICTION BY FINAL JUDGMENT of a felony offense or any other offense involving moral turpitude.
 - 3. The applicant was adjudicated insane or incompetent.
- 4. The applicant engaged in fraud, dishonesty or corruption on a certification examination in another state.
- 6. THE APPLICANT IS CURRENTLY ON PROBATION, PAROLE OR COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FOR A FELONY OFFENSE OR IS NAMED IN AN OUTSTANDING WARRANT.
- 7. THE COURT HAS ORDERED TREATMENT FOR THE APPLICANT PURSUANT TO TITLE 36 OR HAS FOUND THE APPLICANT TO BE INCAPACITATED PURSUANT TO TITLE 14.
- 5. 8. The applicant is subject to revocation or suspension of a certificate pursuant to section 32-4041 OR HAS HAD ANY OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE DENIED, REVOKED OR SUSPENDED.
- B. The board shall refuse to issue a certificate or to renew a certificate if the board finds that either of the following applies:
 - ficate if the board finds that either of the following applies:

 1. The applicant does not meet the requirements under section 32-4021.
- 2. The applicant is currently on probation, parole or community supervision or is named in an outstanding arrest warrant.
- 9. THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN FOUND CIVILLY LIABLE IN AN ACTION INVOLVING FRAUD, MISREPRESENTATION, MATERIAL OMISSION, MISAPPROPRIATION, THEFT OR CONVERSION.
- B. PURSUANT TO RULES ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT, THE BOARD MAY REFUSE TO ISSUE OR RENEW A CERTIFICATE FOR CAUSE.
- Sec. 12. Section 32-4041, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

32-4041. Revocation or suspension of certificate

- A. The board may revoke or suspend a certificate issued under this chapter for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. Unprofessional conduct.
 - 2. Violations of this chapter.
 - 3. Gross negligence or incompetence in the performance of duties.
 - 4. Fraud, dishonesty or corruption.
- 5. Inability to perform the duties of a court reporter at a level of skill that is required by the board.
- 6. Aiding or assisting another person to engage in the verbatim reporting of any judicial proceeding if the other person is not a certified court reporter.
- 7. Conviction BY FINAL JUDGMENT of a felony offense or any other offense involving moral turpitude.
 - 8. Adjudication of insanity or incompetency.
- 8. THE COURT HAS ORDERED TREATMENT FOR A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER PURSUANT TO TITLE 36 OR HAS FOUND A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER TO BE INCAPACITATED PURSUANT TO TITLE 14.

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B. Before revoking or suspending a certificate, the board shall give a certificate holder notice and an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to its rules, EXCEPT THAT IF THE BOARD FINDS THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE REQUIRES EMERGENCY ACTION AND INCORPORATES A FINDING TO THAT EFFECT IN THE ORDER, THE BOARD MAY ORDER THE SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF A CERTIFICATE PENDING A PROCEEDING FOR CERTIFICATE REVOCATION OR OTHER ACTION.

Sec. 13. Laws 1999, chapter 335, section 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. Court reporters; temporary certificate rights

- A. The board of certified court reporters shall grant temporary certificates to practice court reporting pursuant to this act to persons who, to the satisfaction of the board, are either: MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS C, D AND E OF THIS SECTION. IF AN APPLICANT FAILS TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS, THE BOARD MAY REFUSE TO ISSUE OR RENEW A TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE.
- 1. Eligible to serve as court reporters pursuant to section 32-4021, paragraphs 3 and 6, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act, who are actively employed as court reporters in this state on the effective date of this act and who have applied for a temporary certificate by January 1, 2000.
- 2. Not actively employed as court reporters in this state on the effective date of this act or who have not applied for a temporary certificate by January 1, 2000, but who are eligible for examination under section 32-4022, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act.
- B. All temporary certificates shall be renewed annually and may not be renewed beyond December 31, 2002, except that the board may renew temporary certificates after December 31, 2002 due to extenuating circumstances.
- C. Applicants for certification under this section shall submit their request to the board of certified court reporters. The board may require applicants to include signed affidavits from three attorneys or judges for whom the court reporter has reported depositions or other judicial proceedings and prepared transcripts.
- C. A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE IF THE PERSON MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - 1. IS AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
 - 2. IS A CITIZEN OR LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
 - 3. POSSESSES EITHER:
 - (a) A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.
- (b) A GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA OR A SIMILAR DOCUMENT OR CERTIFICATE.
 - 4. HAS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING;
 - (a) ONE YEAR OF EXPERIENCE IN MAKING VERBATIM REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS.
- (b) OBTAINED A VERIFIED STATEMENT OF THE SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF A PRESCRIBED COURSE OF STUDY FROM A COURT REPORTING SCHOOL THAT EVIDENCES THE EQUIVALENT PROFICIENCY AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE A VERBATIM RECORD.
- (c) DEMONSTRATED PROFICIENCY, AS SPECIFIED BY RULES ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT AND AS VERIFIED BY A STATEMENT OF SATISFACTORY COMPLETION DEMONSTRATING THE COURT REPORTER'S ABILITY.

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- (d) OBTAINED A CERTIFICATE AS A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER OR A REGISTERED MERIT REPORTER FROM A NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION.
- (e) OBTAINED A VALID CERTIFICATE THAT IS ISSUED BY ANOTHER STATE AND THAT EVIDENCES THE EQUIVALENT PROFICIENCY AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE A VERBATIM RECORD OF MATERIAL.
- (f) DEMONSTRATED REASONABLE PROFICIENCY IN MAKING VERBATIM RECORDS OF TRIAL OR JUDICIAL OR OTHER RELATED PROCEEDINGS THROUGH THE APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO PASS AN APPROVED EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULES ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT.
 - 5. IS OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER.
- 6. HAS NOT ENGAGED IN ANY CONDUCT THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE GROUNDS FOR DENIAL, REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 32-4006, 32-4024 OR 32-4041, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES.
- 7. COMPLIES WITH THE LAWS AND RULES AND ORDERS ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT GOVERNING COURT REPORTERS IN THIS STATE.
- 8. PAYS THE FEES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 32-4008, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES.
- 9. SUBMITS A FULL SET OF FINGERPRINTS WITH THE FEE PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 41-1750, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES TO THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING A STATE AND FEDERAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-1750, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND PUBLIC LAW 92-544. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY MAY EXCHANGE THIS FINGERPRINT DATA WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
- D. AN APPLICANT FOR TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED TO INCLUDE WITH THE APPLICATION SIGNED AFFIDAVITS FROM THREE ATTORNEYS OR JUDGES FOR WHOM THE COURT REPORTER HAS REPORTED DEPOSITIONS OR OTHER JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND PREPARED TRANSCRIPTS.
- E. PURSUANT TO RULES ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT, THE BOARD OF CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS MAY REFUSE TO ISSUE OR RENEW A TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE FOR CAUSE.
 - Sec. 14. Retroactivity
- Section 32-4003, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, applies retroactively to from and after June 30, 2000.

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